

Clean Set of Claims

A1 5/27 cl 1. A receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability, comprising:

a receive signal from a telephone line;

a summer in said receive path;

a gain module;

a message playback signal relating to a pre-recorded voice message; and

a record module adapted to record said receive signal from said telephone line during a conversation on said speakerphone;

wherein said message playback signal is combined with said receive signal by said summer, allowing simultaneous hearing by a local user of said speakerphone.

2. The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switched loss echo suppression module in said receive path.

A2 5/27 cl 8. The receive path of a voice messaging system with speakerphone capability according to claim 2, further comprising:

a digital to analog converter in said receive path at a point after said switched loss echo suppression module.

A3 5b7
cl 14. A method of allowing a playback message signal to be combined with a receive signal in a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability, comprising:

hybrid echo canceling a transmit signal from a receive signal at a summer in a receive path of a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability;

summing a playback message signal together with said hybrid echo canceled signal at a point in said receive path after said summer;

maintaining said speakerphone in a receive state until transmit activity is detected; and

recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone.

15. Apparatus for allowing a playback message signal to be combined with a receive signal in a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability, comprising:

means for hybrid echo canceling a transmit signal from a receive signal at a summer in a receive path of a voice messaging system having speakerphone capability;

means for summing a playback message signal together with said hybrid echo canceled signal at a point in said receive path after said summer;

means for maintaining said speakerphone in a receive state until transmit activity is detected; and

means for recording said receive signal during a conversation on said speakerphone.

16. A method of playing back a recorded voice message, comprising:

establishing a telephone call;

initiating a speakerphone function of a near end voice messaging device in said telephone call;

playing back a voice message recorded on said near end voice messaging system while said telephone call remains established;

injecting an electrical signal corresponding to said played back voice message into said telephone call such that individual users at either end of said telephone call can hear said played voice message and concurrently converse with one another as desired; and

recording an incoming voice signal associated with said telephone call during a conversation on a speakerphone.

18. The method of playing back a recorded voice message according to claim 16, wherein:

said electrical signal is injected digitally.

19. Apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message, comprising:

means for establishing a telephone call;

means for initiating a speakerphone function of a near end voice messaging device in said telephone call;

means for playing back a voice message recorded on said near end voice messaging system while said telephone call is established;

means for injecting an electrical signal corresponding to said played back voice message into said telephone call such that individual users at either end of said telephone call can hear said played voice message and concurrently converse with one another as desired; and

means for recording an incoming voice signal associated with said telephone call during a conversation on a speakerphone.

AS 21. The apparatus for playing back a recorded voice message
according to claim 19, wherein:

means for injecting said electrical signal injects said signal digitally.